

Duck Lake Peninsular Shores Association

FALL NEWSLETTER

2008

P. O. Box 344, Grawn, Michigan 49637
DLPSA website: <http://webpages.charter.net/dlpsa/>

Message from the DLPSA Board

Board members frequently receive phone calls or emails from peninsula residents about issues of concern taking place in our neighborhood. Some of the more common complaints are about dogs barking or "doing their business" on others' lawns, driving issues (usually speeding or inconsiderate parking), burning of household or lawn waste and leaves, unsightly material cluttering yards or lack of yard maintenance for prolonged periods, and late-night noise from fireworks or partying.

The Board **is not** the peninsula enforcer for these issues, nor do we want to be. We Board members are simply volunteers who want to enjoy and keep our peninsula beautiful and a great place to live, just like all of you. If you have concerns with any of the above matters, please talk directly to the violators and try to work it out, neighbor-to-neighbor. If unsuccessful, you might contact the sheriff, marine or animal patrol units, or others with responsibilities relevant to the violations.

If we all will only police ourselves and respect our neighbors, many of these issues will cease to exist. Let's all take an objective look at our behaviors and at our properties and consider what we can do to make this peninsula an even better place to live for everyone.

DLPSA Board Membership for 2008-09

Listed below are the DLPSA Board members, who were elected at the September meeting. Rod Ross, who previously served as Board Secretary, has retired from the Board. We thank Rod for his valuable contributions during his four years of service. We also welcome Oral Carper, who is our new Board member.

President: Duane Lueck (also Maintenance Committee) 231-276-6676 GJLueck@gmail.com
Vice President: Scott Hocking
231-276-9195 justtrucks2@att.net
Secretary: Dan Bodary
231-276-6592 bbodary@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Jan Bachman
231-944-9337 bachman@charter.net

Director: Scott Kreta (Hospitality)
231-218-0048 scottcssewing@yahoo.com
Director: Dan Briggs (Newsletter)
231-276-0126 (May-Nov only) briggs@tera.org
Director: Oral Carper (Liaison)
231-276-0390 (cell phone 618-977-0671)
owcarper@peoplepc.com

The DLPSA Board meeting schedule is listed below. Any DLPSA members wishing to submit discussion items to the Board should contact a Board member. All meetings begin at 7:30 pm at Duane Lueck's house.

Wednesday, Oct 29, 2008
Tuesday, Jan 7, 2009
Tuesday, Mar 10, 2009
Tuesday, July 14, 2009

2008 Pig Roast

The Second Annual Peninsula Pig Roast held in July was a big success with attendance estimated at over 300 people. We greatly appreciate the financial support for this event, which was provided by Jeff Beaton, Dan Bodary, Tom Fabitz (Landscape Management), Scott Hocking (Just Trucks), and Tom Podolan. We also appreciate the willingness of the many people who helped with the set-up, cooking, serving, organizing games, clean-up, and other things. We are planning another pig roast for next summer, and we hope to get even more people actively involved. This is a great way to meet your neighbors! Let us know if you are willing to help!

2008 Fall General Meeting

The Fall Meeting of DLPSA, which also is the annual election meeting, was held at the Schworm Park pavilion on Sunday, September 14. The complete minutes of the 2008 DLPSA Spring Meeting are available on the DLPSA website <http://webpages.charter.net/dlpsa/> or you may request a copy from the DLPSA Secretary. A brief summary of key items discussed at the meeting is as follows:

Approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009
Income (from estimated dues) \$10,000
Expenditures

Fee for bonding officers	\$ 135
Legal	\$ 500
Miscellaneous	\$ 200
Office supplies	\$ 500
Upkeep/improvements:	
Keys	\$ 500
Canal weed control	\$ 500
Dock launch	
removal/installation	\$ 250
Lawn maintenance	\$ 5100
General improvements	\$ 2315
(e.g. stump grinding,	
new asphalt, etc.)	
Total expenditures	\$10,000
Net income (loss)	\$ 0

Peninsula Covenants Update

A detailed summary of the Peninsula Covenants Exploratory Committee's report was presented at the Spring Meeting by Lowell Spence and was included in the Spring Newsletter. The newsletter asked all DLPSA members to seriously consider this issue and to contact Board members before the Fall Meeting with their opinions on whether we should proceed with efforts to update/revise the existing covenants. The response of the membership was almost non-existent, with only three people providing feedback to the Board. All of this feedback was negative.

During the meeting, a few attendees expressed some interest in having the covenants updated and, especially, in finding ways to get everyone on the peninsula to pay their yearly \$65 dues, but there was no consensus to proceed on this issue. Therefore, at this time, no further work on covenant revision is planned.

Up-coming 2009 Events

- DLPSA Spring General Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 4 pm, in the Schworm Park pavilion
- Peninsula Garage Sale: Saturday, June 13, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Pig Roast: Saturday, July 18, 4 pm, at Schworm Park
- DLPSA Fall General Meeting: Sunday, Sept 13, 4 pm, in the Schworm Park pavilion

All events will occur "rain or shine".

Bulletin Board Artist

Several members have noticed and commented positively on the new bright and happy pictures that are placed on the bulletin board sign at the entrance to the peninsula with the passing of each season. We do not know who is creating these pictures, but

we appreciate their work and thank them for their fine efforts. If whoever is doing this work will contact a Board member and identify yourself, we would be happy to acknowledge you by name. Please continue your good work!

New Peninsula Residents

If you know of anyone who has recently moved here to the peninsula, please notify Scott Kreta so he can visit them and provide them with a welcome package.

Saving Money and Trees by Using Email

As you might imagine, printing and mailing copies of our newsletters twice every year to each of the peninsula residents requires a considerable amount of paper and continually increasing postage costs. We would like to reduce these expenditures by sending out the newsletters via email to all of you who are able and willing to receive your newsletters in this way. We know that using email distribution will not work for everyone, but we would like to give this method of distribution a try. If we can use email distribution for even a fraction of the peninsula residents, our savings in both paper and postage would be significant.

If you are willing to help us make these savings, please send your name, peninsula street address, and email address to Dan Briggs at briggs@tera.org. Thank you!

Work at the Peninsula Boat Launch

As agreed at the Fall General Meeting, the two trees within the circle loop at the boat launch that were causing driving problems and making the asphalt buckle have been cut down. Thanks to Scott Kreta and to many others for doing this work. A few days later we had a contractor grind out the stumps, remove the roots and the buckled asphalt, and haul away the remaining tree branches. He now has put in new asphalt and smoothed out the surrounding ground. Grass seeding and some trimming of the trees along the roadway still needs to be done and will be finished soon. We are considering adding rocks and other landscaping inside the loop to prevent vehicles from driving across it and making ruts. Please avoid driving on the area inside of the circle loop.

Also, please remember to replace and lock the chain when you have finished using the boat ramp. And note the new invasive species advisory

warning sign that has been added by the fence – thank you, John Novak.

Invasive Species (by John Novak)

For the first time this past July, Duck Lake volunteers who belong to the Green Lake Betsie River Assn. took an aquatic plant survey on Duck Lake. We were pleased to find only native plant species and no non-native harmful species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). EWM is of major concern as it has the potential to make Duck Lake nearly unusable for swimming, fishing or power boating. Since EWM has been found in Long Lake, Lake Dubonnet and Silver Lake, as well as other lakes in GT County, it is likely that it will be found in Duck Lake and Green Lake in the next few years.

The purpose of this article is to bring to the attention of Duck Lake residents what could happen to Duck Lake if EWM is found in the lake and what needs to be done when it is found.

EWM is an invasive plant species thought to be introduced into the North American ecosystem in the mid 50's. It is similar in how it looks to our native Northern Milfoil, currently found in Duck Lake, but EWM grows much more aggressively. The primary difference is the number of leaflets on the central spine of the plant and is very difficult to identify without the use of a magnifying glass. If left totally unchecked, EWM will grow to the water's surface, fouling boat propellers, making swimming unlikely and generally making it difficult, if not impossible, to use much of the lake.

EWM is a very hardy plant and can take root just about anywhere that sunlight can reach. Since the clarity of Duck Lake has improved due to the Zebra Mussel infestation, the potential for EWM infestation has increased. Sunlight can now reach as deep as 15 feet much of the year. A look at a chart of Duck Lake indicates that EWM has the potential to cover all of the lake shoreline and at least 1/3 of the total lake surface.

Once found in the lake, total elimination of EWM is almost impossible, however plans to control infestation are possible and need to be implemented as soon as the infestation is found. Any plan used must be recognized as expensive, time consuming and never ending. Since Duck Lake does not have an active lake association, how any plan would be implemented is unclear.

The Green Lake Betsie River Association (GLBRA) has developed a plan that would be implemented in, and only in, Green Lake if EWM is found. This plan is similar to plans used in other lakes around

Michigan. The plan consists of three general phases.

- Treatment of small areas of infestation by a licensed contractor, who would apply a state approved herbicide. The GLBRA would obtain the necessary permit and consent of the affected riparians. The cost of this treatment is about \$600 to \$700 per acre. It is assumed that this step will **not** solve the problem.
- GRBRA would press the local taxing authority (Green Lake Township) to establish a Lake Board. The Lake Board membership is determined by law and is made up of representatives of the township and some citizens. The Lake Board would then raise money through a **tax assessment** on property owners (**which** property owners would need to be determined) to cover the cost of a professional assessment, plan and treatment of the affected areas. There would probably be an annual assessment thereafter. This step could take a long time to develop, perhaps years, and in the meantime the infestation would continue.
- In the long term the GLBRA would like to increase the number of native weevils already found in Green Lake. This weevil feeds on native Northern Milfoil controlling it. The weevil will also feed on EWM. However, EWM grows so fast that the native weevil cannot keep up with it. Consequently, additional weevils are added to the remaining invasive plants hoping of controlling them. This step is labor intensive (involving divers), very expensive and not always effective. It is as close to a permanent solution, as exists at this time.

This is the general plan that Green Lake would follow. Duck Lake has no active lake association or plan to address EWM. However, the GLBRA has been kind enough to distribute its news letter to, and collect dues from, Duck Lake residents to provide a small fund to initially address the EWM issue. At this time the fund has only \$1310 which could only treat a very few of the nearly 2000 acres of Duck Lake.

This article is appearing in the DLPSA newsletter; however, any action to address the Duck Lake EWM issue must include **all** Duck Lake residents. Contributions to the GLBRA fund for Duck Lake are held specifically for use on Duck Lake. Anyone who would like to get involved in lake issues should

contact John Novak (276-0361), Steve Bates (276-9346), Marv Burdine (276-9360) or Mary K Monteith (276-6842). Anyone with organizational skills would be especially appreciated.